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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES
OF PHILADELPHIA.

VOL. II. SEPT. AND OCT., 1845. No. 11.

Stated Meeting, Sept. 2, 1845.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

Flowers and leaves of *Galactodendron utile*, or Cow tree of South America. From Mr. Thos. C. Percival.

Specimen, in spirits, of a Serpent from the Cape of Good Hope. From Dr. Watson.

Dr. Morton deposited some additional vertebræ of the *Mosasaurus*, Mount Holly, New Jersey. Also dermoid scales of a fossil Saurian, from the same locality.

Dr. Morton also deposited the crania of two ancient Peruvians, two mound skulls from Missouri, a Hottentot, a Mozambique Negro, and four mummied Egyptian heads.

DONATIONS TO LIBRARY,

Annales des Mines. 4^{me}. Serie. Tome VI. Liv. 5 and 6. de 1844. In exchange.

Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History. Vol. 1. from page 129 to conclusion, with the title page and index. From the Society.

Dr. Morton offered some remarks on the skulls deposited by him this evening.

1. The four embalmed heads were brought from the Egyptian catacombs, by Dr. C. Pickering. Two present all the characteristics of the Negroid variety, or that in which the negro conformation predominates; the hair, especially in one of them, is long, but harsh and somewhat wiry; in the other it is cut short and presents a finer texture.

A third head of this series also exhibits some mixture of the Negro race, but the little hair that remains is remarkably fine.

The fourth has lost the facial bones, and is therefore not capable of being precisely determined; but judging from the cranium, it is of Caucasian origin, and the hair, which is short and curly, is of a very fine texture.

2. The two ancient Peruvian heads possess great interest. They were obtained by Dr. John Houstoun, an intelligent officer of the British Navy, who politely sent them to Dr. Morton, with the following memorandum: "From an ancient Indian town called Chiuchiu, or Atacama Baja, on the river Loa, eight leagues from Calamo, and on the western edge of the desert of Atacama. Here there are extensive remains of Indian houses, and a loop-holed fortress built of mud. The *huacha*, or native burial place, is in a terrace of soft sandstone, or volcanic tuffa. The bodies are nearly all buried in the sitting posture, with the hands either placed on each side of the head, or crossed over the breast." These crania have been moulded by an artificial process into the upwardly-elongated or sugar loaf form, being thus very high and broad in front, with a short antero-posterior diameter, both the forehead and occiput bearing evidences of long-continued compression. These heads correspond precisely with the descriptions given by the earliest Spanish travellers in Peru, and especially by Cieza and Torquemada, who saw the natives in various parts of the country with heads moulded precisely in this manner;* which was also once in use among the Natchez tribes of the lower Mississippi, and in various parts of Mexico.

3. Two admirably characterized Indian crania, from ancient cemeteries in Missouri, whence they were obtained by a zealous

*See *Crania Americana*, p. 116.

inquirer into American Ethnography,—Dr. Wistlenius, of St. Louis. Dr. Morton expressed his regret that the very interesting letter of that gentleman to him had been inadvertently mislaid; but he intends to communicate it to the Society as soon as recovered.

4. Two skulls of native Africans, the one a Hottentot, the other a Mozambique. The first of these is the head of a woman, of perhaps five and twenty. It is small in size, with all the strongly marked negro features which are characteristic of these singular people. For these crania, Dr. Morton expressed his acknowledgments to Mr. John Watson, of Cape Town, through his brother, Dr. Gavin Watson, of our Institution.

Stated Meeting, Sept. 9, 1845.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

Mr. A. L. Heermann presented thirty-four finely mounted specimens of the following European birds:

Sylvia phragmitis, Bechst.	Emberiza cia, L. ♂
“ hippolais, Lath.	“ hortulana, L.
“ trochilus, “	Loxia curvirostra, L. ♂
“ curruca, “	Lanius rufus, Briss.
“ rufa, “	“ colluris, “
“ palustris, Bechst.	Picus medius, L.
“ aquatica, Lath.	“ minor, “
“ icterina ♂ and ♀	Hirundo rustica, L.
“ arundinacea, Lath.	“ riparia, “
“ phænicurus, ♂ “	Fringilla montana, “
“ tithys, Scopoli.	“ serinus, “
“ luscinia, Lath.	“ chloris, Temm.
Anthus arboreus, Bechst. ♂	“ montifringilla, L.
“ “ (young.)	Alauda brachydactyla, Temm.
“ pratensis, Bechst.	Motacilla flava, L. ♂
“ Richardii, Viell.	“ boarula, Temm. ♂
“ rufescens, Temm.	